

From: Andrew Frank
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 3:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Like most other companies involved in the IT industry, I have not experienced any particular problem directly attributable to the rather inflammatory litigation involving Microsoft and our government. Our concerns, like most other businesses, center more around concerns of our country's softening economic picture than anything else. That having been said, however, is not to suggest that had this lawsuit continued to its anticipated bitter end, its result would not have complicated the business picture for most IT companies one way or another.

It is better for our country and the IT business that this lawsuit has been removed from the contentious battlefield of the courts and has instead been relegated to a settlement. This settlement addresses the issues raised by the court action and serves as a quieter, less factious way to conclude this matter to everyone's satisfaction. It quietly shifts the onus of licensing Windows from individual OEMs to a collective of the top twenty hardware manufacturers. It also subtly forces changes in the way Microsoft designs Windows to accommodate software companies.

I am very much supportive of the settlement, and am hoping that with its acceptance, we can all benefit from being able to move forward.

Sincerely,

Andy Frank

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Vice President & General Manager

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